

Weekly Field Memo – October 8, 2014

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Early Education Webinars: Born Explorers! Young Children & Next Generation Science Standards

Audience: Early Educators

What are the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and how might they influence early childhood programs? In this first of two webinars, Lynn Talamini, Kathy Renfrew, and Pat Fitzsimmons will provide an overview of NGSS for early educators. This webinar will take place on October 29 from 3:30 to 4:30. Please register at vthec.webex.com.

Contacts: Kathy Renfrew, (802) 479-1448 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us; Pat Fitzsimmons, (802) 479-1425 or pat.fitzsimmons@state.vt.us

Learning While Leading Principals Workshops

Audience: Principals

This spring, the Vermont Agency of Education will provide a series of free workshops called “Learning While Leading (LwL) for Principals” in their 2nd to 4th year of their principalships. The workshop will focus on building yours skills as an adaptive leader. In these workshops, you will use “action research” to closely study student and teacher experiences as you consider an AOE leadership initiative of your

choice, such as Education Quality Standards, Flexible Pathways, or Multi-tiered Systems of Support. The “Learning While Leading” workshops will take place in the spring and early summer 2015. A survey will be sent to you within the next two weeks regarding this opportunity.

Contact: For more information please contact Debi Price at debora.price@state.vt.us

NSTA Web Seminar: Teaching NGSS in Grade 1

Audience: Principals, K-5 Teachers, Teacher Leaders/Coaches

Waves are introduced in first grade in the topics of both light and sound. On October 22, we will highlight the instruction students will need in order to *[plan and conduct investigations](#) to determine the effect of placing objects made with different materials in the path of a beam of [light](#)*. We will use videos of actual classrooms to demonstrate that first graders can do very cool science. The web seminars will also provide the opportunity for discussions on instructional practices with other teachers at the same grade level and begin the development of a grade-level community in the NSTA Learning Center to support students learning. To register or to learn more, go to: <http://goo.gl/KP1iGX>.

Contact: Kathy Renfrew, K-5 Science Assessment Coordinator, (802) 479-1448 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us

NEED Fourth Grade “Transfer of Energy” Resources

Audience: Principals, K-5 Teachers, Teacher Leaders/Coaches

The Vermont Agency of Education is looking for video and other resources that support the learning/understanding of the transfer of energy, found in 4th grade NGSS standard *Energy*. The Agency would like to consider using some of this content from Vermont teachers in the upcoming 4th grade web seminar in January 21, 2015. Remember, the Agency is not looking for perfection; the Agency is looking for the teacher who is willing to share his/her work to help the Agency improve science education for *all* students.

Contact: Kathy Renfrew, K-5 Science Assessment Coordinator, (802) 479-1448 or kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us

Draft National School Leadership Standards - ISLLC

Audience: Principals, Superintendents

The new draft standards for School Leadership by the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) have been posted for comment and review. Be sure to review and voice your opinions as these standards drive evaluation and licensure for principals across the nation. See the press release, draft standards and survey for public comment on the CCSSO website:

[http://www.ccsso.org/News and Events/Press Releases/2014 Draft ISLLC Standards for School Leaders.html](http://www.ccsso.org/News_and_Events/Press_Releases/2014_Draft_ISLLC_Standards_for_School_Leaders.html).

Contact: Amy.Fowler@state.vt.us or (802) 479-4308 for more information.

VTPBiS Exemplar Schools Recognized

Audience: All

The VTPBiS State Team is recognizing eleven schools as “VTPBiS Exemplar Schools” for the 2013-2014 school year. To receive this acknowledgement, these schools showed evidence of implementation fidelity and demonstrated that sustained implementation has had positive effects on learners’ academic and behavioral performance. View the complete announcement at: <http://education.vermont.gov/news/press-releases>.

Who Are We As Math Leaders? Vermont Math Leadership Council (VMLC) Membership Meeting

Audience: Mathematics Coaches, Professional Learning Providers, Pre-Service and Mathematics Professors, Curriculum Coordinators

When: Thursday, October 16, at the Windjammer Restaurant in South Burlington, from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Agenda: Defining our roles, elections, and networking.

Returning and new members are welcome. Non-members at our meeting pay a fee of \$20, which may be applied toward membership should you choose to join the Council. Only members may vote.

Membership forms are available by contacting Julie Conrad, vermontmathleaders@gmail.com,

Membership Committee Chair.

Contacts: Linda Horn lhorn@rnesu.org and Patty Kelly pattykelly@hotmail.com, *Meeting Coordinators*; Elaine Watson, elaine.watson0729@gmail.com, *Elections Committee Chair.*

Science Instructional Leadership Professional Development Opportunity

Audience: Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Science Leaders, Coaches, Mentors

The LAPDA organization is offering a professional development series for Vermont science educators to strengthen leadership skills in providing constructive feedback and guidance for teachers as they begin to implement Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in their classrooms. Dates: November 6 and December 4, 2014. For further information and registration, go to: <http://goo.gl/cA70qV>.

Correction: Agency of Education (AOE) Announces Dates for Smarter Balanced Testing

Audience: Administrators, Curriculum Coordinators, Teachers

The Smarter Balanced testing window for elementary and middle schools (grades 3-8) will open on March 17, 2015 and run through June 12, 2015. High Schools can schedule testing for their eleventh graders at any time between April 21 and June 12. The English Language Arts and Mathematics tests, which include 30 minute classroom activities that are part of the new tests' performance tasks, will take approximately 8 hours to complete. The AOE will host Test Administrator workshops in four locations around the state in January, dates and locations to be announced.

Contact: Michael Hock, Director of Educational Assessment, (802) 479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Corrected Contact: Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Status Records

Audience: Superintendents and Principals

The Licensing Office would like to remind Superintendents and Principals that they should be maintaining HQT records on all educators subject to HQT review. Educators can now access their HQT status through the Vermont Online Licensing System for Educators. When an educator's HQT status shows "Yes" under *Print License Details*, this is all that is needed for school records regarding their HQT status. See this memo on the AOE website, under Licensing in the large red box, for more detail:

http://education.vermont.gov/documents/EDU-Licensing_HQT_Memo_9_2014.pdf.

Contact: If you have any questions, please call the HQT Specialist at the Licensing and Professional Standards Office at (802)479-1708 or via email at amy.anderson@state.vt.us

Youth Environmental Summit, November 6

Audience: Students in Grades 7-12

Deadline: October 15, 2014

Are you interested in learning more about environmental issues and find out ways to make a difference in your school or community? Then sign up for the Youth Environmental Summit (YES)! YES is an annual conference for youth in grades 7-12. **Cost is only \$10!** To learn more about YES 2014 and to register, go to www.uvm.edu/extension/teenleadership and click on "Programs" and then "Youth Environmental Summit." Workshops are first-come, first-served and they fill up fast. We usually have over 200 participants attend.

Contact: Lauren Traister, University of Vermont Extension, (802) 888-4972 ext. 402, or at lauren.traister@uvm.edu

Smarter Balanced Assessment Readiness Session, Preparing your School to Administer the Tests and Integrate the Results into Practice

Audience: School Technology Coordinators, Curriculum Directors, Principals, SBAC Team Members
Led by Vermont Agency of Education staff Michael Hock, Peter Drescher and Frank Gerdeman. This half-day workshop is designed to provide suggested actions and 'next-steps' to help schools with Smarter Balanced readiness.

- Wednesday, October 15, Stratton Mountain Resort, Winhall, 1:00 - 4:00pm
- Thursday, October 16, Capitol Plaza, Montpelier, 1:00 - 4:00pm
- Friday, October 17, 2014 Hampton Inn, Colchester, 1:00 - 4:00pm
- Monday, October 20, 2014, Hampton Inn, Colchester, 9am - noon

Cost at all locations: \$25. Separate registration for each site: Stratton: www.LearningCollaborative.org; Montpelier: www.lapdvt.org; Colchester, both dates: www.cvedc.org

Title Vermont Fire Safety Poster Contest

Audience: Principals, Superintendents, Curriculum Coordinators, Art Teachers, Principals
Deadline: October 24, 2014

The *Vermont Fire Safety Calendar* Program provides a focused learning experience about fire safety when students prepare fire safety posters for the calendar. A team of judges then selects 13 posters for the 24th annual *Vermont Fire Safety Calendar*. Thousands of calendars are delivered to schools throughout the state by the end of the year for students to bring home.

The focus this Fire Prevention Week (October 5 through October 11) is to make fire safety a part of daily life throughout the year by coordinating fire prevention topics for each month. Students can work on the posters before or after fire prevention week. The finished posters must be mailed to the Division of Fire Safety Central Office or dropped off at one of the Division's regional offices by October 24, 2014. The poster contest is open to all third grade students. For more information please call the Division of Fire Safety at 802-479-7561.

Contact: Bridgette Hutchinson, VT Dept. of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety (802) 479-7561 bridgette.hutchinson@state.vt.us

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent. In addition, the VT-AOE Weekly Field Memo is [archived](#) on the Agency of Education website.

Sign up for the weekly field memo here: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html

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